

Setting up of Transmitters by voice of America in Indian Sub Continent

2377. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(e) whether the Voice of America (VOA) is on way to set up transmitters in the Indian Sub-continent;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government of India was approached by V.O.A. to set up a transmitter in India; and

(d) if so, the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (e) and (b). In so far as the South Asian region is concerned Government are aware of the Agreement between the Governments of the United States of America and Sri Lanka to upgrade and relocate Voice of America's existing receiving and broadcasting facilities in Sri Lanka. Government have taken up the matter with the Government of Sri Lanka in order to ensure that such facilities are used only for public broadcasting.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Water Salinisation Problems in Coastal Area

2378. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a report of a United Nations Agency, coastal areas of India are facing serious water salinisation problem;

(b) if so, whether any scheme has been formulated in consultation with UN experts to solve the problem; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c). Several location based studies have been conducted within coastal areas of Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Orissa with United Nations Development Programme assistance, wherein the problems of sea water ingress and soil salinity were acute. Many projects have been formulated for construction of tidal regulators, check dams, spreading basins and channels, Bhandaras etc. for artificial recharge of ground water. Several of them are under execution and likely to be completed shortly, subject to fund availability.

World Bank Assistance for rehabilitation of displaced persons of Singur Project

2379. SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any financial assistance has been sought from the World Bank for the rehabilitation of the displaced person of Singur Project in Medak district of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). Resettlement and rehabilitation of project affected persons of Singur Reservoir Project is a component of the World Bank assisted Hyderabad Water Supply and Sanitation Project-I. Of the total project cost of Rs. 257 crores, a provision of